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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2626
INFO RUEHGR/AMEMBASSY GRENADA 0150

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 000953

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DEPT FOR OIA/NPS STEPHEN A. MORRIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OTRA TPHY SCUL SENV KSCA GJ XL

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO LISA ANDREWS FOR TRAVEL TO GRENADA

REF: STATE 88550

¶1. Embassy Bridgetown welcomes and grants clearance to Lisa Andrews, National Park Service, Outdoor/Educational Specialist, Big Cypress National Preserve, for travel to Grenada June 19 - July 1, 2006. Ms. Andrews will provide technical assistance to the Grenada Park Flight Project on behalf of the National Park Service and Park Flight Migratory Bird Program.

¶2. Per reftel, Embassy understands assistance is not required. The contact information for Ms. Andrews is Alan Joseph, Chief Forestry Officer, Grenada Forestry and National Parks Department, telephone 473/533-7766 and Willan Hamilton, Education Officer Grenada Forestry and National Parks Department, telephone 473/406-6739. Note: When calling Grenada from the U.S. the caller only needs to place a "1" in front of the area code. Do not dial "01" as the call will not go through.

¶3. Embassy Bridgetown requests an outbrief be provided to the Political/Economic Section relating to activities while in the region within 10 working days of completion of travel. Please provide the outbrief by telephone, 246/436-4950 X2230, or by fax at 246/431-0384.

¶4. Entry requirements: Mission policy is that all USG travelers to the region be in possession of a valid passport. There is a departure tax of 50 xcd (Eastern Caribbean) dollars or 20.00 U.S. dollars.

¶5. The exchange rate in Grenada is 2.70 xcd (Eastern Caribbean) dollars for one U.S. dollar. U.S. currency, travelers' checks, and credit cards are routinely and widely accepted.

¶6. The following is general information pertaining to security and health considerations throughout the Eastern Caribbean:

Security

The Regional Security Office, Embassy Bridgetown, has declared the Grenada Grand Beach Hotel off limits for official travel due to security issues. Please do not use this hotel until further notice.

In the Eastern Caribbean, foot travel outside of well-established tourist areas is not generally recommended, especially at night. Be vigilant when using public telephones or ATM machines near roadsides or quiet areas. As in many U.S. metropolitan areas, wearing expensive jewelry, carrying expensive objects, or carrying large amounts of cash should be avoided. Visitors should also safeguard valuables

while at the beach. While hotels are generally safe, many visitors have experienced loss of unattended items. Hotel burglaries are not uncommon and all valuables should be locked in room safes if possible.

Health

Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the most likely threat to a visitor's health is sunburn. It takes several weeks to become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Prolonged exposure to the sun, without protection, causes sunburn and may ultimately result in sun-damaged skin or even skin cancer. Sunscreens should be used for protection. In Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines the major health threat is dengue fever, transmitted by mosquito.

Dengue cases are most often seen in the summer months. Persons should therefore protect themselves with insect repellent. There is a growing number of HIV/AIDS cases reported. The Eastern Caribbean enjoys clean and safe drinking water. Only routine boosters for immunizations (i.e., tetanus, diphtheria, and oral polio vaccine) are required when traveling to this region. Barbados has the best medical facilities of all the islands in the region and most of the medical specialties have practitioners here.

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